

Letter from Taizé

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3

June-July 1993

"Joy and peace"

EASTER IN TAIZÉ

PROCESSED

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Jesus Christ, you came to earth not just for some people, but for every human being, even for those who do not know you.

When faced with the mystery of your resurrection, questions and even doubts can arise within us. And so you help us rely not just on our own faith but on the faith of your entire Church, from Mary and the Apostles until the believers of today.

Baptized in the Holy Spirit, and fragile as our human condition is, you call each of us to follow you and take up ever anew a Gospel road, our whole life long, and with great simplicity of heart.

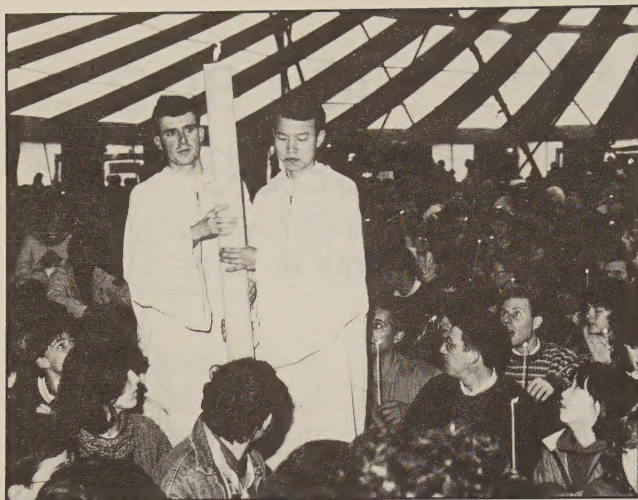
Each one of us can say: "I am Christ's, I am of Christ." And you, risen Lord, remind each of us: "You are my only one, in you I find my joy."

PRAYER BY BROTHER ROGER FOR EASTER 1993

During Holy Week, prayer for Bosnia became even more intense. The bombing of Sarajevo had begun just one year before. Children and young people from Bosnia continue living in Taizé, now joined by their parents. An entire family from Sarajevo has thus been able to reunite itself on the hill. Two messages from Bosnia arrived in Taizé for Easter, one of which was signed by 41 young people of Sarajevo:

"The young people of Sarajevo have been developing ways to bring help to others. One part of our group has organized itself to visit elderly and sick people in their homes. They gather once a week to share their experiences. They broadcast over the radio for believers so that all may hear the word of God, even those in isolated areas where all communications with the outside have been severed. One day they were in a church located in one of the most dangerous areas of the city and celebrated the eucharist there. Even though it was struck by several bullets, the church remained packed. They have several video cassettes about the European meetings as well as one of a program about Taizé that had been transmitted via satellite...

After one year of this terrible war, we have decided to write to you. We don't have words to express what we have been through, all the fear and the suffering. But we know that God is with us and watches over us. He is our only hope. We place our confidence and our lives into his compassionate hands. We have lost nearly everything. What we do have is the Spirit and the love of God, and that cannot be taken away from us. This love keeps us alive and gives us the strength to face all that comes our way. We pray each day hoping that peace and reconciliation will come soon. We were in communion with you during the European meeting in Vienna. Thank you for your prayers and for all that you have done for us. We wish you the joy and peace of Easter."



EASTER IN TAIZE

On Holy Saturday evening, Brother Roger told how earlier that same day he had come across a letter written to him thirty years before by Brother Robert, a brother of the community who had just recently died. In the letter, he had written: "I experience more than ever before a hunger for holiness. This path is the only true one. We must walk along it together."

Speaking about the death of someone close to him, Brother Roger continued: "When faced with the mystery of the resurrection, questions and even doubts can arise within us. But doubt need not alarm us. Even when Christ was together with his disciples, there was always one who doubted. Doubts can at times keep us from closing the door of our heart, and stimulate us to search at the sources of the humble trust which is faith. The Gospel says to each person: Search, search and you will find. And above all do not let the fire which is in you go out."

He then spoke about the brother from Portugal who, in the course of the Easter celebration, would pronounce the yes by which he would offer himself to God for life in the vocation of the community. "Remembering that God can do nothing else but love us, this brother knows that we are led, because of Christ and the Gospel, to give our whole life, day after day, with great simplicity of heart." For the commitment, Brother Roger had written the following prayer:

"Holy Spirit, you open our eyes to the wonder of your love. Since your resurrection, O Christ, you come to each one of us where we are. And moreover, even when we feel nothing of your presence, you say to each of us: I am there; come, follow me and you will

find a place to let your heart rest; you will find a meaning to your life."

On Easter morning, the main celebrant at the Eucharist was a young priest from Hungary. At the very end of the celebration, the bells rang out as the Easter greeting was exchanged in all the languages present: - Christ is risen — The Lord is truly risen!

Over the four weeks around Easter, from March 29 to April 25, some 12,000 young people from eastern and western Europe, as well as from other continents, took part in the meetings. And throughout 1993, meetings of young people will continue week after week in Taizé. If during these meetings everyone could search for ways to prepare themselves for taking up responsibilities...If everyone could discover something simple yet intense, drawn from the sources of that humble trust which is faith...

The death of Brother Robert

On March 12, Brother Robert died of a cancer he had been suffering from for five years. He was 70 years old.

Robert Giscard had entered the Taizé Community in 1946. Together with his brother Alain Giscard, he was among the first to join Brother Roger who founded the community in 1940. A doctor by training, Brother Robert had cared for people of the region for many years. A musician as well, he had consecrated his talents to developing the music of Taizé.

a prayer for the time of Pentecost

Gathering song
Laudate omnes gentes

Song

Veni Sancte Spiritus, with verses read or sung:

- Come, Father of the poor; come, generous Spirit; come, light of our hearts.
- Perfect Comforter, Wonderful Freshness, you make peace dwell in our soul; in our labour, you are our rest; in our trial, you are our strength; in our sadness, consolation.
- To those who put their trust in you, and who receive you in faith, pour out all your gifts; enable them to grow in you, and persevere in your love, give them the joy that is lasting. Alleluia!

Psalms 33 (34)

with refrain: Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo

I will bless the Lord at all times, on my lips, the sound of God's praise; rejoice, O my soul, in the Lord, all the humble, hear and rejoice.

Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo

Come, let us worship the Lord, with one voice give glory to God; I cried to the Lord, who replied and freed me when I was afraid.

Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo

Look to God, and be radiant; and your faces will never be ashamed; the poor cry out and God hears them and delivers them from all of their trouble.

Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo

The angel of the Lord is near, defending the faithful in heart; how good is the Lord! Taste and see! What joy when God is our shelter!

Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo
 serve the Lord, you who are holy; those
 who serve God never go wanting; the
 rich go destitute and hungry; those who
 search for God lack for nothing.

Misericordias Domini in aeternum cantabo

A reading from the Gospel of Saint John

Jesus said: "I am the door of the sheep-
 fold. Whoever goes in through me will
 be secure; they will go in and out, and
 find pasture... I have come so that they
 may have life, and have it to the full. I
 am the good shepherd. The good shep-
 herd offers his life for his sheep. But the
 hired man, since he is not the shepherd
 to whom the sheep belong, abandons
 the sheep as soon as he sees a wolf
 coming, and runs away. So the wolf cat-
 ches hold of the sheep and scatters
 them... I am the good shepherd. I know
 my sheep, and my sheep know me, just
 as the Father knows me and I know the
 Father, and I offer my life for my sheep.
 I have other sheep still, and they do not
 belong to this fold. I must lead them
 too. They will listen to my voice, and
 there will only be one flock, led by one
 shepherd.

John 10:9-16

Song

Jesus, your light is shining within us.
 Let not my doubts and my darkness
 speak to me. Jesus, your light is shining
 within us. Let my heart always welcome
 your love.

Silence

Prayer around the cross

Song

Ubi caritas et amor,
 ubi caritas Deus ibi est

Intercession:

between each petition: Kyrie eleison! or
 Gospodi pomilui! (Lord, have mercy)

The following prayer outline is
 proposed for the time just before or
 after Pentecost. It can be shortened or
 lengthened, for example with a long
 evening prayer. The prayer around the
 cross and the light of the Easter candle
 remind us that at the heart of our faith
 is to be found the mystery of Christ
 dead and risen. And right here on
 earth, Christ enables us to participate
 in his Risen Life. He puts his Spirit
 into us: breath of life, creator of
 communion.

- Living God, in your love and tenderness,
 you have visited us and redeemed us...
- God our Father, you are gathering us
 into the communion of your Son,
 make us live from your love...
- God our Father, you uphold all those
 who are trying to communicate your
 love, keep them in your joy...
- Jesus Christ, you know our trials and
 our poverty, make us live from your
 love...
- Jesus Christ, your trust awakens our
 trust, keep us in your joy...
- Spirit of Loving, in our lives you shed
 a desire for peace and justice, let us
 live from your love...
- Spirit of Loving, in our hearts you
 have placed the hope and the strength
 that carry us forward, keep us in your
 joy...
- Lord our God, we entrust to you the
 victims of war, of violence, of hunger
 (in particular...), keep them in your
 love...
- Lord our God, we entrust to you
 prisoners, the sick, the lonely and the

people who are forgotten, keep them
 in your love...

- Lord our God, we entrust to you our
 Christian community, everybody who
 meets in this place, keep them in your
 love...

Song

Nada te turbe...
 or: Stay with us...
 or: Crucem tuam...

During this song, all those who wish to do
 so can come closer to the cross. As they
 place their forehead on the wood of the
 cross, they entrust to Christ the burdens and
 the suffering that weigh on themselves and
 on others.

Our Father

The celebration of light

A Reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

We have been buried with Christ by
 baptism into death, so that, just as
 Christ was raised from the dead by the
 glory of the Father, so we too might
 walk in newness of life. For if we have
 been united with him in a death like his,
 we will certainly be united with him in a
 resurrection like his. If we have died
 with Christ, we believe that we will also
 live with him. We know that Christ,
 being raised from the dead, will never
 die again; death has no longer dominion
 over him. The death he died, he died to
 sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he
 lives to God. So you must also consider
 yourselves dead to sin and alive to God
 in Christ Jesus.

Romans 6:4-5,8-11

Song

Within our darkest night,
 you kindle a fire that never dies away

Prayer

Risen Jesus, you welcome us just as we
 are. Even more, we know "God can
 give only his love"; by your life in us
 you accomplish this miracle: you set us
 free, you wipe away the past, and you
 lead us to loving. Baptised in the Holy
 Spirit, we have been clothed with
 Christ. And so, O Christ, you remind
 each one of us: you are the only one for
 me, in you I find my joy.

prayer by Brother Roger

Song

Surrexit Dominus vere, Alleluia

During this song, each person present can
 come to light a candle at the Easter Candle;
 or else a child can take the light from the
 Easter Candle and then light the candles of
 everyone present.

Jésus le Christ

Gesù Cristo, luce interiore, non lasciare che le mie tenebre mi parlino. Gesù Cristo, luce
 interiore, fammi accogliere il tuo amore.

The musical score is for the song 'Jésus le Christ'. It features three staves of music. The lyrics are written below the staves in three columns: French, German, and English. The French lyrics are: 'Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re, ne lais - se pas mes té - nè - bres me par - / Cris - to Je - sus, oh - tue - go que, a - bra - sa, que las - si - nie - blas en mi, no ten - gan / Je - sus, your light is shin - ing with - in us. Let not my doubts and my dark - ness speak to / Chris - tus, dein Licht er - strahlt auf der Er - de und du sagst uns: auch ihr seid das Licht. Chris - tus, dein / Je - zu, Tyś jest świat - łoś - ciał mej du - szy. Niech ciem - ność ma nie prze - ma - wia do mnie'. The German lyrics are: 'Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re, ne lais - se pas mes té - nè - bres me par - / Cris - to Je - sus, oh - tue - go que, a - bra - sa, que las - si - nie - blas en mi, no ten - gan / Je - sus, your light is shin - ing with - in us. Let not my doubts and my dark - ness speak to / Chris - tus, dein Licht er - strahlt auf der Er - de und du sagst uns: auch ihr seid das Licht. Chris - tus, dein / Je - zu, Tyś jest świat - łoś - ciał mej du - szy. Niech ciem - ność ma nie prze - ma - wia do mnie'. The English lyrics are: 'Jé - sus le Christ, lu - mière in - té - rieu - re, ne lais - se pas mes té - nè - bres me par - / Cris - to Je - sus, oh - tue - go que, a - bra - sa, que las - si - nie - blas en mi, no ten - gan / Je - sus, your light is shin - ing with - in us. Let not my doubts and my dark - ness speak to / Chris - tus, dein Licht er - strahlt auf der Er - de und du sagst uns: auch ihr seid das Licht. Chris - tus, dein / Je - zu, Tyś jest świat - łoś - ciał mej du - szy. Niech ciem - ność ma nie prze - ma - wia do mnie'.



echos from the continents

South Africa

Solidarity and sharing

A letter arrived the day after Easter: Last weekend we had a small meeting of youth in Pretoria and the prayer around the cross is continuing through the Fridays of Lent. Another meeting will be held in May. A number among us have gone to about six parishes already, including Clifford who was in Vienna just a few months ago to help for the preparations of the European meeting. I'm sure you have heard about Chris Hani's death and the violence that followed it. One of our young people was shot, but his life is fortunately out of danger. Please pray for all of us. And in the midst of all this we celebrate the Risen Jesus!

Six young people from South Africa are presently in Taizé, all for a longer stay. When they speak about their country, this is what you can hear them say: Politically there is hope that the legal aspects of freedom are at hand. But patience and perseverance are needed to encourage the flowering of potential in a people so long oppressed. It is by helping those near at hand, in their personal crises, with what little each has to offer, that solidarity begins. In the midst of the fighting, there remain people who, with festive hearts, are ready to weep or to laugh according to the needs of their neighbor.

Reconciliation between people of different racial backgrounds is happening slowly. We hear the words of Jesus, that repentance and forgiveness will lead to God's fullness. But in areas of tension we learn how poor we are in observing the

Gospel. Even so, in discerning the limits of our small hearts, from this honesty can spring the power and love of the heart of God. So in humble and courageous ways people are reaching out to offer to others comfort, friendship and assistance. Individuals whose identities have been clouded by years of abasement are finding support as community and joy are affirmed even in the middle of great social turmoil. Also, groups of youth have organized themselves to encourage each other and to help elderly members of their communities. This is seen to be essential in maintaining trust and contact between generations. The spontaneity of the young together with the experience of the adults is providing a hopeful framework for grace.

Australia

Being pilgrims together

In this immense land, along a Lenten pilgrimage animated in various locations by a brother of Taizé, thousands of Australians, both young people and adults, met to share and pray, sometimes for retreat gatherings:

All along this pilgrimage, people of different denominations have been coming together to pray. During the prayer, you could hear their diversity. In Greenwood for example, there were Bible readings in Polish, Dutch, Spanish, Greek, Slovenian, Latvian and Chinese. The cross of Taizé was present at each step, a visible sign that on the pilgrimage of our own life, it is Christ whom we follow. The beauty of the prayer and the singing, prepared beforehand at each stop by a local group, made room for discoveries: "I was much refreshed by the worship," wrote Almuth from Perth. "It had such an atmosphere of yearning and supplication — giving me the freedom not to have to be super-spiritual and strong, but just to be myself. Free to be weak, free to long for God and not need to have found him already: free to search again. How beautiful to be silent!"

"We set out," wrote Rhonda from Como, "we walked a way, and it's like an image of our own lives, where so many obstacles could bring us to a halt. Morosity and pessimism do paralyze us. The shortage of hope comes from a feeling that daily problems are unsurmountable. Divorce, unemployment, discrimination, and the loss of moral values create an atmosphere of discouragement. When we feel we can't change anything, we turn in on ourselves and that just augments divisions. To be pilgrims together, to set out as pilgrims towards one another is a way of discovering a source of unity and reconciliation that is already there in our lives, beyond the boundaries of culture and race."

Poland

Giving time for children

At the end of the European meeting in Vienna, questions were distributed to participants as a way of consulting the young people. Among the hundreds of responses received, here is one from Alicja of Suwalki, a city located in northeastern Poland, close to Lithuania:

"Time has gone by since the meeting in Vienna. All the sentiments, wonder, and the charm and atmosphere of the moment have been interiorized. What remains are the tangible gifts of the meeting.

I would first of all like to thank everyone who prepared it, for all the effort and heart they put into it. Coming right after some difficult events and inner crises with my own faith, the European meeting was a time for recollection and renewal of my dialogue with God. I received an optimistic outlook upon life. What Brother Roger wrote in his letter to the young people is so true: "Morosity is more contagious than joy and peace of heart."

It is not easy to give answers to the consultation questions. They must first of all be lived out. Following Christ does not mean taking the easy way.

If people want to, they can give time for children. Since six months I have been visiting here in Suwalki a center for children coming from families with alcohol-related problems. The children go there every day after school to do their homework, eat and then play. At night, most return to their own homes, but some remain at the center. They know that if when they return home they find their parents drunk, they can always come back to the center.

I was very apprehensive before my first visit. I didn't know what to say to them, how to act, or how they would receive me... But all my doubts vanished thanks to the radiant face of one little boy. He held a tiny stuffed bear by the ear and wasn't afraid of anyone. His heart was full of friendship for everyone.

At the center, there are about thirty children between the ages of 7 and 15, and only three full-time assistants. The children often need to speak with young people just a bit older than themselves, with whom they can talk about everything. Visiting the children has become a venture for my whole school. Everyone chose the day most convenient for them, and then we set up a timetable, taking turns with our visits, so that there would always be one of us there at the center.

The work gives us enormous joy! The most beautiful reward is to see their smiling faces and when you hear them say: "At last you've come, I couldn't wait!"

MEDITATING ON THE WORD

JULY

JOHANNINE HOURS

LUKE 5.27-32

These short readings, taken from the midday prayer in Taizé, can be read several times during the day. The references indicate longer readings. If you have time to read only one, the one in bold type is suggested.

1 THU Ga 2.19-20 Mt 9.14-17
Paul writes: The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 FRI Tt 3.5-7 Mt 9.18-26
Through Jesus Christ, our Saviour, God has generously poured out on us the Holy Spirit, so that justified by his grace we may be heirs in hope of eternal life.

3 SAT Jn 20.24-29 Ep 2.19-22
St THOMAS Jesus said to Thomas: You believe because you can see me. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe.

4 SUN Mt 11.28-30 Zc 9.9-10
Jesus said: Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

5 MON Mt 9.35-38 Is 40.1-5
Jesus said to his disciples: The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.

6 TUE Is 40.6-8 Mt 10.1-10
Isaiah said: Grass withers and flowers fade, but the word of our God will stand forever.

7 WED Mt 10.17-25 Is 40.9-11
Jesus said to his disciples: Anyone who stands firm to the end will be saved.

8 THU Mt 11.1-6 Is 40.25-28
Jesus said: Go back and report what you hear and see: the blind receive sight, the lame walk, the dead are raised to life, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor.

9 FRI Is 40.29-31 Mt 11.7-15
God gives strength to the weary and the weak.

10 SAT Is 41.8-10 Mt 11.25-27
The Lord says: Do not be afraid. I am your God, your help, your strength and your salvation.

1 SUN Mt 13.1-9 Is 55.10-11
Jesus said: A sower went out to sow. Some seeds fell on good soil and produced a crop — a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

12 MON Is 41.17-20 Mt 12.1-8
The Lord says: When the oppressed and needy search for water and there is none, I the Lord will answer them. I shall not forsake them. I will open rivers upon the barren heights and fountains in the valleys.

13 TUE Is 42.1-7 Mt 12.9-14
The Lord says: My servant does not cry out or raise his voice. Faithfully he will present what is just; he will not falter or be discouraged until he has established justice on the earth.

14 WED Mt 12.15-21 Is 42.10-16
In Jesus the words of the prophet Isaiah were fulfilled: "Look! My servant whom I have chosen. I will place my Spirit upon him. In him the nations will put their hope."

15 THU Is 43.1-4 Mt 12.46-50
Thus says the Lord who created you: Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name, you are mine.

16 FRI Mt 13.10-23 Is 43.10-13
Jesus said: The seed which was sown in good soil is like someone who hears the Word and understands it; that person bears fruit.

17 SAT Is 43.18-20 Mt 13.53-58
God says: Do not dwell upon the past, look, I am doing something new.

18 SUN Mt 13.31-35 Ws 12.13-19
Jesus said: the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. Of all seeds it is the smallest, yet once it has grown it is the biggest of plants.

19 MON 1 Co 1.1-9 Mt 14.13-21
You are eagerly waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will continue to give you strength to the very end.

20 TUE 1 Co 1.17-25 Mt 15.29-31
We proclaim Christ crucified, which to the nations is foolishness, but to those whom God has called it is Christ, the power and the wisdom of God.

21 WED 1 Co 1.26-31 Mt 16.13-20
God chose things that by human standards are weak to confound the strong. God chose what is lowly and despised in the eyes of the world.

22 THU Jn 20.11-18 Rm 8.28-30
The Risen Christ said to Mary of Magdala: Go and find my brothers and tell them: I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.

23 FRI 1 Co 2.7-12 Mt 16.21-27
We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that comes from God, that we may understand what God has freely given us.

24 SAT 1 Co 3.18-23 Mt 13.24-30
Paul writes: All things are yours; but you belong to Christ and Christ belongs to God.

25 SUN Mt 13.45-46 1 K 3.5-12
Jesus said: The kingdom of heaven is like a trader looking for precious pearls; when he finds one of great value, he goes, sells all he has and buys it.

26 MON 1 Co 4.1-5 Jn 4.1-10
Paul writes: Judge nothing prematurely, but wait until the Lord comes.

27 TUE 1 Co 4.9-13 Jn 4.10-14
St. Paul writes: We are fools for Christ. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we offer comfort in return.

28 WED 1 Co 6.17-20 Jn 4.13-24
Anyone who unites themselves to the Lord is one spirit with him.

29 THU 1 Co 12.4-11 Jn 14.31-38
In each person the Holy Spirit manifests its action for the good of all.

30 FRI 1 Co 12.12-25 Jn 4.46-54
Just as the body is one though it has many parts, so it is with Christ. We were all baptized into one body in one Spirit.

31 SAT Jn 7.37-39 1 Co 12.26-31
Jesus cried out: Let anyone who is thirsty come to me! Let anyone who believes in me come and drink!

Johannine hours are meant as a way of seeking God in silence and prayer in the midst of our daily life. During the course of a day, take an hour or so to read the Bible passage with the short commentary and to reflect on the questions which follow. Afterwards, a group of 3 to 10 people can meet to share what they have discovered and perhaps for a time of prayer.

Levi the tax collector, a more or less honest collaborator with the occupying power, was certainly not well loved. And he must have had a certain aversion for himself, seeing that the profits from his dishonesty did not compensate for the lack of real friends. In this existence heading for failure, Jesus sees something deeper. Behind the visible reality, there is generosity, the desire to live something absolute. Jesus already sees in Levi a good heart, capable of great things. So Jesus says to him, «I trust in you. Come with me. You can be my friend, my witness.» And Levi does not ask himself if he is ready. At once, with no hesitation, he stands up, and his joy is so great that he shares it at once, organizing a party to which he invites many people who could think they were far from God. He experiences «a reorientation of mind and heart.»

That is what «conversion» means: discovering that Christ trusts me, leaving behind my isolation and my evil sadness, standing up, trusting that I can do something for the joy of others. Jesus relates conversion to healing. When we are seriously ill, we cannot heal ourselves, and yet no one is healed against their will. This is also true of conversion: like forgiveness, God gives it to us (cf. Acts 5,31). It is up to us not to cling to our sadness.

- What did Levi discover in his encounter with Christ that caused him to get up quickly and organize a celebration?
- Where do I welcome God's love? In prayer, some words from the Gospel, the Eucharist? Through the trust that someone shows me or the concern I have in turn for others?
- How can I share joy with those around me?

You can also read: Luke 7,36-50; Romans 8,31-39

MEDITATING ON THE WORD

AUGUST

JOHANNINE HOURS

MATTHEW 18.1-5

These short readings, taken from the midday prayer in Taizé, can be read several times during the day. The references indicate longer readings. If you have time to read only one, the one in bold type is suggested.

1 SUN Mt 14.13-21 Is 55.1-3 Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, who gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied.

2 MON 1 Co 13.1-7 Jn 6.60-69 Even if I can understand all mysteries and know all things, even if I have the faith to move mountains, if I am without love I am nothing.

3 TUE 1 Co 13.8-13 Jn 10.7-10 Paul writes: These three things remain: Faith, hope and love. And the greatest of them is love.

4 WED 2 Co 3.16-18 Jn 10.11-18 Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

5 THU 2 Co 4.7-10 Jn 10.22-30 We carry the treasure of God's glory in earthen vessels so that it may be quite clear that the radiance comes from God, not from us.

6 FRI TRANSFIGURATION Mt 17.1-9 Dn 7.9-14 On the mountain where Jesus was transfigured, a bright cloud covered the disciples and a voice said: This is my beloved Son, on whom my favour rests; listen to him.

7 SAT 2 Co 4.16-18 Jn 8.12 We do not fix our eyes on what is seen but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

8 SUN Mt 14.22-33 1 K 19.9-13 Jesus came towards his disciples, walking on the water, and they were terrified; but at once he said to them: Courage! It is I. Do not be afraid.

9 MON 2 Co 5.1-5 Mt 18.1-5 Paul writes: We know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven.

10 TUE Mt 18.12-14 2 Co 5.6-9 Jesus said: If a shepherd finds one sheep that was lost, it gives him more joy than ninety-nine others that did not stray at all. In the same way, your Father in heaven does not want even one to be lost.

11 WED Mt 18.15-20 2 Co 5.16-19 Jesus said: When two or three meet in my name, I am there among them.

12 THU 2 Co 5.20-21 Mt 18.21-22 St. Paul writes: In the name of Christ we appeal to you to be reconciled to God.

13 FRI 2 Co 7.5-7 Mt 19.16-22 Paul writes: We were beset by conflicts without and by fears within; but God, who encourages the downcast, consoled us.

14 SAT 2 Co 9.6-15 Mt 19.23-26 Paul writes: Anyone who sows generously will also reap generously. And God is able to enrich you with every grace so that, having all you need, your resources overflow in all kinds of good work.

15 SUN THE VIRGIN MARY Lk 1.39-56 1 Co 15.20-27 Mary said: My soul praises the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has been mindful of his humble servant.

16 MON Mt 19.27-29 Col 1.9-14 Jesus said: Anyone who leaves home, brothers, sisters, father, mother, children or fields for my sake will receive much more and will inherit eternal life.

17 TUE Col 1.15-20 Mt 20.17-19 Christ is the image of the unseen God, in him all things have been created, in heaven and upon the earth, both the visible and the invisible.

18 WED Mt 20.20-28 Col 1.21-23 Jesus said: The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many.

19 THU Col 1.24-29 Mt 20.29-33 God has wanted to reveal to the nations the splendid riches of the mystery which is Christ in you.

20 FRI Col 2.1-5 Mt 21.13-17 In the mystery of Christ all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden.

21 SAT Col 2.6-10 Mt 21.28-32 Paul writes: In Christ, all the fullness of God lives in bodily form, and in him you too find fulfilment.

22 SUN Mt 16.13-20 Rm 11.33-36 Peter said to Jesus, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven."

23 MON Col 2.12-14 Mt 22.15-22 Having been buried with Christ in baptism, you have also been raised with him, because you have believed in the power of God who raised him from the dead.

24 TUE Rv 21.1-7 Jn 1.45-51 God says: I am the Beginning and the End. I shall give water from the well of life freely to anyone who is thirsty.

25 WED Jn 3.1-8 Col 2.16-23 Jesus said: Unless a person is born from above, they cannot see the kingdom of God.

26 THU Col 3.1-4 Jn 3.16-17 Set your hearts on things above, not on earthly things. For you have died and now the life you have is hidden with Christ in God.

27 FRI Col 3.8-11 Jn 3.25-30 You have put on a new self that is being renewed in the image of its Creator. Here there is no room for distinction between persons; there is only Christ, who is all and in all.

28 SAT Jn 3.33-36a Col 3.12-17 The one whom God has sent, Jesus Christ, speaks God's own words, for God gives him the Spirit without limit.

29 SUN Mt 16.21-27 Jr 20.7-9 Jesus said: If anyone wants to follow me, let them renounce themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

30 MON Jn 14.1-3 1 Tm 1.1-2, 12-17 Jesus said: Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me.

31 TUE 1 Tm 2.1-6 Jn 14.5-7 There is only one God, and there is only one mediator between God and humanity, Christ Jesus, himself a human being, who gave himself for all.

Johannine hours are meant as a way of seeking God in silence and prayer in the midst of our daily life. During the course of a day, take an hour or so to read the Bible passage with the short commentary and to reflect on the questions which follow. Afterwards, a group of 3 to 10 people can meet to share what they have discovered and perhaps for a time of prayer.

The "kingdom of heaven" is the future coming from God (here "heaven" does not mean a place but replaces the word "God" to avoid pronouncing it). By their question the disciples try to find out who participates most fully in bringing it about. Jesus' reply is astonishing! Usually a plan for a better future depends on those most talented, but God's future comes with those who become like children! A child has no clear plan, but is entirely "unfinished", turned toward the future. By their very fragility, children make us attentive to the infinite value of every human being. They have a secret of hope: they cannot expect nothing from life.

The child whom Jesus calls comes without fear to see at close hand these grown-ups discussing so seriously. And all at once, this child is their teacher and is entrusted to them. With authority, by the simple desire to live, children exclude pessimism. Fragile, perhaps even abandoned, they ask humbly to be welcomed. They resemble Christ who, knowing he will be abandoned on the cross, identifies himself with them: "Whoever welcomes this child, welcomes me." Henceforth and until the end of time, Jesus speaks to us and gives himself to us in the little (Matthew 25,40).

- How can I discover, around me, those whom God entrusts to me?
- What can we receive from those who are abandoned, lonely or misunderstood?

You can also read: Isaiah 58,5-12; Luke 22,24-27



Meetings of young people in Taizé

very week throughout the year, it is possible to come to Taizé to take part in meetings that bring together, from Sunday to the following Sunday, young adults from throughout Europe and from different continents. During such a week, it is essential to be in contact with the wellsprings of the trusting of faith, a trust that will echo a long time, for some their whole life long. It is so important to spend days where each person is accepted as they are, where they can give the best of themselves, and return home with the joy of knowing they are in communion with many others.

It is also possible for adults and families to take part in meetings prepared for them.

This year, those who spend a week in Taizé can choose among several different possibilities:

The group devoted to the wellsprings of faith will alternate introductions to Bible texts with times of sharing in small groups and listening to witnesses from Europe and other continents. Workshops with specific themes will give an opportunity to reflect on topics such as committing oneself with those who are forgotten, responding to Christ's call, being bearers of trust and reconciliation.

Those who wish to go deeper into the Bible can choose a group where the introductions are focused on a particular theme, for example the Psalms or St John's Gospel. Places are presently being set up to provide a larger silent area for those who choose to spend the week in silence.

Those who have already come to Taizé or who have taken part in a European meeting can, if they so desire, have a different experience by spending several weeks in Taizé. An itinerary of formation will be proposed to them: deepening their understanding of the Bible, speaking in depth with a brother or with a sister of St. Andrew to help them view their own personal journey in the light of the Gospel, working in a team with young people from different countries to take responsibility for some of the tasks related to the welcome. Depending on their possibilities, they can be welcomed free of charge beginning the second or third week. They should write to Taizé in advance.

To register or for further information, write to: Meetings, Taizé Community, 71250 Taizé, France. Tel (33) 85.50.30.02 (in English, 10 am to noon and 4:30 to 6:30pm) or, if urgent, 85.50.30.30. Fax (33) 85.50.30.16.

ACCOMMODATION

Living conditions are simple. During the summer months, bring a tent if at all possible.

Those under 30 stay in tents or, in the winter, in heated dormitories (boys and girls separate). Bring sleeping-bag and lightweight mattress.

Those over 30: depending on age, in dormitories or in rooms for two or several persons, in Taizé, or in the event of space limitations, in local surroundings. The exact place is indicated upon arrival. Bring sheets or sleeping-bag.

COST

Upon arrival, participants are asked to contribute toward daily costs. (Some young people are unable to contribute.) The welcome of visitors is supported by these contributions and by the community of brothers. No organizations provide any financial assistance. Suggested prices, in French francs per day, for young people under 30: GB, NZ 27 to 37; SCAND 36 to 44; IRL 22 to 29; USA, CAN, AUS, 33 to 40. Since they have more resources, adults are asked to pay more. For adults, count double to triple the price for young people, depending on whether accommodation is in tent, dormitory or room. Lodging places are indicated upon arrival.

The community of brothers lives only by its own labor. It accepts no donations for itself, not even a brother's personal inheritance, nothing at all. Many of the expenses incurred through the welcoming of young people, as well as for maintenance of buildings, are covered by the community.

"Operation Hope" helps pay part of the travel expenses for young people who wish to go to Taizé or to European meetings but are unable to meet the costs on their own. At present it helps cover the costs of printing New Testaments for young people in eastern Europe. On various occasions, it brings humanitarian aid to problem areas throughout the world.

Medical insurance: bring documents needed (E 111 for EC residents).


A good welcome for everyone will be assured if all those who can, avoid coming during the last week of July or the first week of August, and instead come during the weeks of late June, early July, late August or September.

Registration form

to be sent to:

Meetings, TAIZE-COMMUNITY, 71250 CLUNY, France.

Tel: (+33) 85 50 30 02, Fax (+33) 85 50 30 16



First Name : _____

Family Name : _____

Address : _____

(with post code and country)

Telephone : _____ Occupation : _____ Age : _____

I wish to participate in the meetings from _____ to _____

(Please circle "yes" or "no")

Will bring my own tent : yes / no

Means of transport: Nuneaton Coaches other coach minibus car train other : _____

For the disabled, adult group-leaders, those who cannot sleep on the floor, please fill in the following:

I need a bed yes/no. If "yes" please circle below who you are:

woman man couple family with _____ children disabled person helper of disabled person

(age of the children : _____) I receive the Letter of Taizé : yes / no

I have already been to Taizé : yes / no (last stay : month _____ year _____)



echos from the continents

Indonesia

Meeting to pray together

I am back from Malang where I was asked to animate common prayer for three days with young people from local parishes. During the day we had meetings and in the evening the prayer. Three persons said some very beautiful things afterwards.

A young man from the Cathedral parish: "I think one of the urgent needs for the Christians in Indonesia is to pray together. As a minority, we are under a lot of pressure and the only way to face it is to be together. Praying together is an answer."

A young sister: "I have spent my life searching for God and it was really hard. I thought that I had almost failed. At the beginning of the prayer I did not understand the songs repeated again and again. But suddenly the song stopped and there was silence. In silence my heart was at peace and full of joy. I knew that he who I was always searching for was there in my silence, close to me." An elderly sister: "When I sang together with the others, I felt that not only my mouth was singing but also my heart."

This gives a lot of encouragement to go forward. Some of them said they will now be continuing to pray together in their church and at home.

New courage

Lynnet returned to Bangladesh after having spent time living in Taizé with the other young people from different continents. She writes: Before Easter, we held a meeting for four days in Birisiri. There was supposed to be a strike just at that time, affecting also the transport, so many of us started out a day early for the pilgrimage of trust. The journey was troublesome. It was a real pilgrimage. Nearly three hundred from all over the country gathered. We joined together three times daily in the common prayers. The bible reflections were introduced by people from different denominations. We also had some workshops on the Christian life among Muslims and experience of married life. The final day ended by celebrating the resurrection of Christ. It was really marvelous. In the evening, we had a candle-lit procession with songs in different dialects and languages. Some of us visited the Ranikhong Catholic Mission, five miles away. After these four days we returned home with abundant peace and courage, feeling that the joy of the resurrection will ever be shining throughout our life.

Germany

Being open to all

Just a few months ago, the name of our city of Brandenburg was in all the newspapers. A group of extremists had attacked a residence for foreign students. Street violence continued for a whole week afterwards. On one occasion, I was a witness myself to the absurd unleashing of hatred. At the root of the difficulties no doubt are living conditions, unemployment, alcoholism, and an absence of meaning to life. Those who perpetrated the violence are disoriented young people my own age.

It is precisely with them that we must learn to trust, and to find ways of being open to all. We had started a regular prayer, but the people who come are already in favor of tolerance and peace. How can we propose a dialogue with others? There are signs of hope. Recently a large demonstration against racism was held. I have seen people who give their time to others they encounter in the street. We have a group in our parish that shares and prays once a week. I was amazed to see how we were able to welcome new young people, and not be afraid to go beyond our own little circle of friends. Now even strangers come by to see what we are doing.

Supporting other young people

For a number of years, groups of young people from the different regions of India have been coming to Taizé, one after another, each for two months at a time. Their stay makes for intensive sharing and discussion. The Indians bring to the Europeans they meet their very much rooted faith, as well as their experience of Church life in a country where Christians are a minority. They, on the other hand, prepare themselves during their stay to start again their activities animating parish groups and young people once they return home. One of these young people, from Orissa, writes:

After returning from Taizé we have been organizing youth meetings in different parishes and places. We are four together here who have been to Taizé and who are now giving our free time in working with the local youths. We have already conducted three get-to-togethers to discuss aspects of our society. But the main attraction each time has been the prayer. We will be going to other parishes of the area. We have already translated the Taizé songs in our Orissa language.

Letter from Taizé

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Correspondence: *Lettre from Taizé*,
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